

Application No.: 10/650498

Case No.: 58811US002

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 10, 2004. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 17, and 21-23, objected to claims 2-4, 6, 8, 18-20 and 24. The Examiner also withdrew claims 9-16 and 25-38 from consideration. With this amendment, independent claims 1 and 17 are hereby amended, dependent claims 3 and 19 are hereby cancelled along with the claims that were withdrawn from consideration, claims 9-16 and 25-38. The application now contains claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 17, 18, 20-24.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 17, 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the Cranskens et al. U.S. Patent 3,296,951 and over the de Leeuwe U.S. Patent 4,646,784. The Examiner also indicated that claims 2-4, 6, 8, 18-20 and 24 contained allowable subject matter and if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims that such claims would be allowable.

With this amendment, independent claims 1 and 17 are hereby amended by including the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 19, respectively. Dependent claims 3 and 19 have also been cancelled. In view of the above, it is believed now that independent claims 1 and 17 are in allowable form including their respective dependent claims. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 17, 18, 20-24 are respectfully requested.

The claims that were withdrawn from consideration are also being cancelled to facilitate the Examiner issuing a Notice of Allowance while reserving the right to file divisional applications.

In view of the above, it is believed that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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